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## FINAL SOCIETY BOOK TALK GETS YOU READY FOR SUMMER VISITORS

The final Montana Historical Society's "Pages in History" book discussion before the summer break will help Helenans show off their community to visitors and friends, or just make their summer walks a little more interesting.

Society Research Historian Ellen Baumler and former Helena Independent Record Editor Dave Shors will present a power-point program based on their book, "Lost Places, Hidden Treasures: Rare Photographs of Helena."

The free program will be Thursday (May 31) at 6:30 p.m. in Montana's Museum just east of the State Capitol Building.

"This book is a great book for visitors and residents alike," Baumler said. "It is a pictorial essay that has photos that people usually don't get to see. It is a fun history of this special community."

Shors and Baumler will pick their favorite historic photos and special Helena places for the talk.

Baumler said one of her favorite "hidden treasures" is a scroll above the north entrance to the Lewis and Clark County Courthouse. It still has the spelling of "Clarke" (with an E) engraved as the original name of the building.

When the courthouse was built in 1887 two spellings of William Clark's name were still in use because he had spelled it both with and E and without in his journals from the famed expedition from which the county took its name.

County officials had to choose a spelling, and they chose to spell it with an E.

In 1900 Montana Historical Society Librarian Laura Howey conducted an extensive research into the spelling and concluded as most others at the time of the bicentennial of the expedition that Clark without an E was the correct one.

It took an act of the Legislature to change the spelling of the county for legal and other purposes to Lewis and Clark County. The only lasting monument to the original county name is the scroll on the courthouse. “It is not a typo or error,” Baumler said. “It is a part of our history.”

Copies of the book are available in Society’s Museum Store. This will be the final session of “Pages in History” until the fall.